

To: CalFed Bay-Delta Program

1416 Ninth St. #1155

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From: Jan Garrod

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Re: Public comment on draft CalFed Bay-Delta Program

September 7, 1999 San Jose, California

Good evening, I'm Jan Garrod a fourth generation Californian. My family has been living and farming the same property just west of here in the foothills since 1893. I am presently the chairman of the Santa Clara County Water District Agricultural Water advisory board. As well as being active in a number of others social and community oriented groups.

In response to the CalFed draft plan, I can see the level of thought and work. This issue is probably the most difficult issue to ever face Californians. The part about taking farmland out of production disturbs me and makes me want to shake my head. It seems that the CalFed plan is the beginnings of a bureaucracy running wild. Going from alleviating a bay delta issue to changing the whole water and ownership picture of the state seems to be moving well away from the task of good government

Using tax dollars to buy farmland and take that land out of production in the most plentiful and fruitful valley in the world is irresponsible and ludicrous. The Government has enough land to take care of and it questionable if a good job is done there. The BLM, National Forest and military bases for instances. I assure you that the voters are not willing to allow money to be spent to buy these wonderful productive ag. land when in the cities we have gridlock, pollution, poor education, crime and drugs.

Now just suppose these farmland are closed, 300 to 900 thousand acres. What's going to happen in those communities losing the farming infrastructure. Because believe it will happen. It happened here in this Valley in the 50's and 60's. Santa Clara now called Silicon was the valley of hearts delight. Once the farms started closing it was like dominos. Farmers like and need to be around other farmers and farm related industries. The parts houses leave, the feed and grain stores go, the fertilizer suppliers move. Pretty soon the farms that are left have a hard time operating. I know because it happened here to my family. We've

been struggling for decades to keep the developer away and continue to farm. Public agencies buying open space and development rights is one thing but buying productive farmland to turn back to natural make no economic and practical sense and proves that CalFed is out of touch.

When this farmland is taken out of production in the Central Valley. Developers will move into the vacuum created by the big hand of the government. Urbanlife styles, with cities and developers no matter how hard they try do not and will not take care of the land and water resources like the Ag. community will. Everyone know that , look at the urban mess here and in Orange county, both were prime Ag. lands.

In your attempt to create a habitat for fish, you'll be creating another nightmare. What happened to the issue of water rights, recycling water, the fact of the population doubling in the next few decades with no water to spare anyway. Leave the farmland alone. The pressure from urban growth is bad enough. Don't pull the rug out from under farmers. Farmers stay on the land for generations everyone else are just passing through. Help farmers conserve water with expertise, grants and low interest loans. Save my tax dollars to fix our cities, develop storage and other water facilities. Don't ruin our farmland and farming communities.

*Jeff Saef*